

THE ORIGINAL INDIAN HERO OF RADIO FAME!

No. 20

DECEMBER

10c

in this issue
STRAIGHT
ARROW'S
GREAT
WAR SHIELD!


Fred Meagher



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STRAIGHT ARROW

A FORTUNE IN GOLD IS JERKED FROM A HEAVILY-ARMED TRAIL CAMP STRAIGHT UP INTO THE SKY! TERROR OF THE UNKNOWN MAKES STRONG MEN WEAK...AND **STRAIGHT ARROW** THE MIGHTY COMANCHE CHIEFTAIN FINDS HE IS PLAYING A LONE HAND IN HIS BATTLE AGAINST

"THE SKY-HOOK GANG!"

Fred Meagher



\$100,000 IN GOLD IS BEING MOVED FROM THE MOUNTAIN-TOP MINE TO THE RAILHEAD...NIGHT HAS SETTLED OVER THE HEAVILY GUARDED TRAIL CAMP...

STEVE, I COUNT MORE 'N A DOZEN FIRST-CLASS GUN-HANDS ON GUARD HERE! DON'T THINK WE NEED TO WORRY ABOUT BEING DRY-GULCHED ON THIS TRIP!

NOT UNLESS A BAND OF LUNATICS IS LOOSE, PACKY!

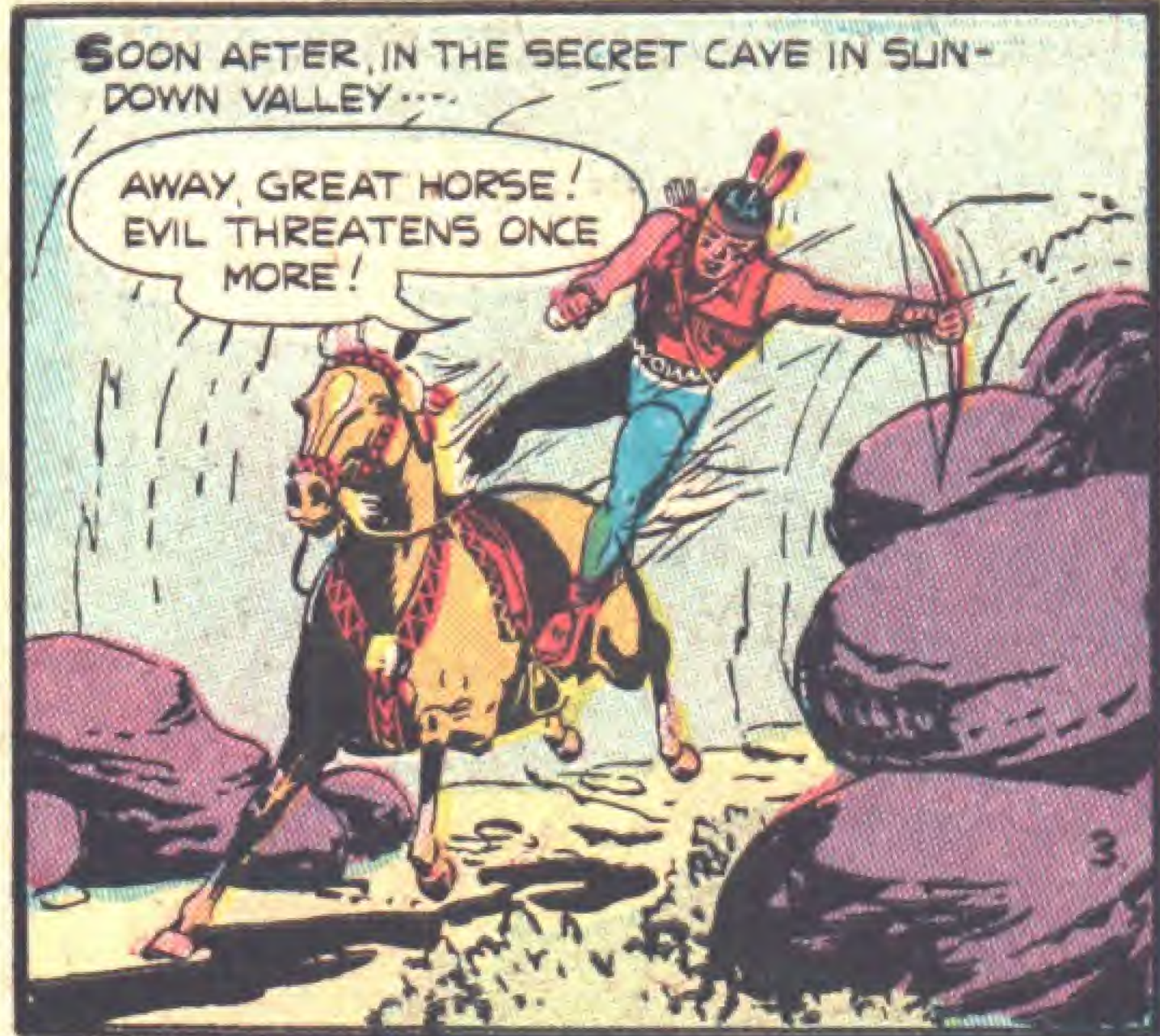
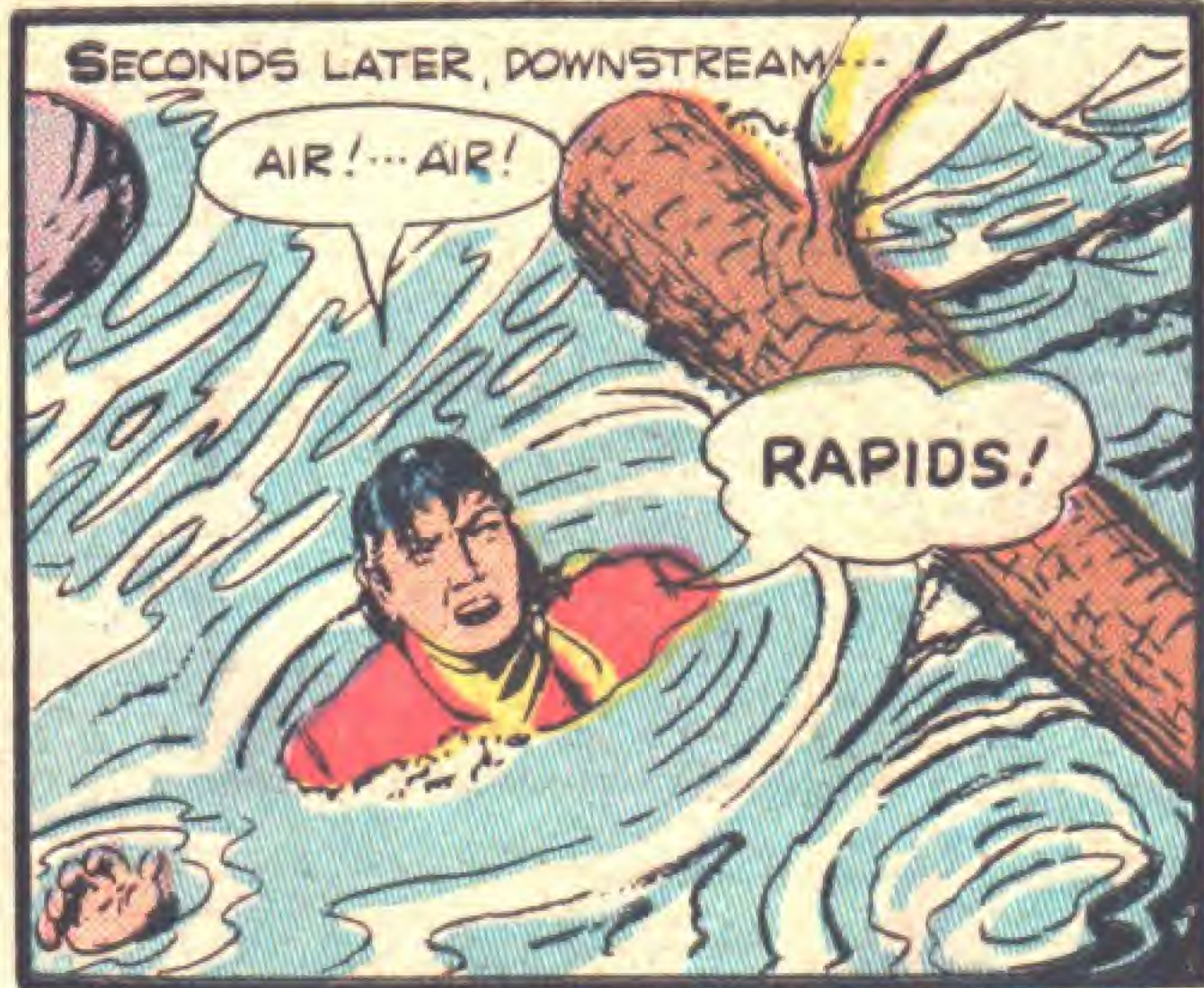
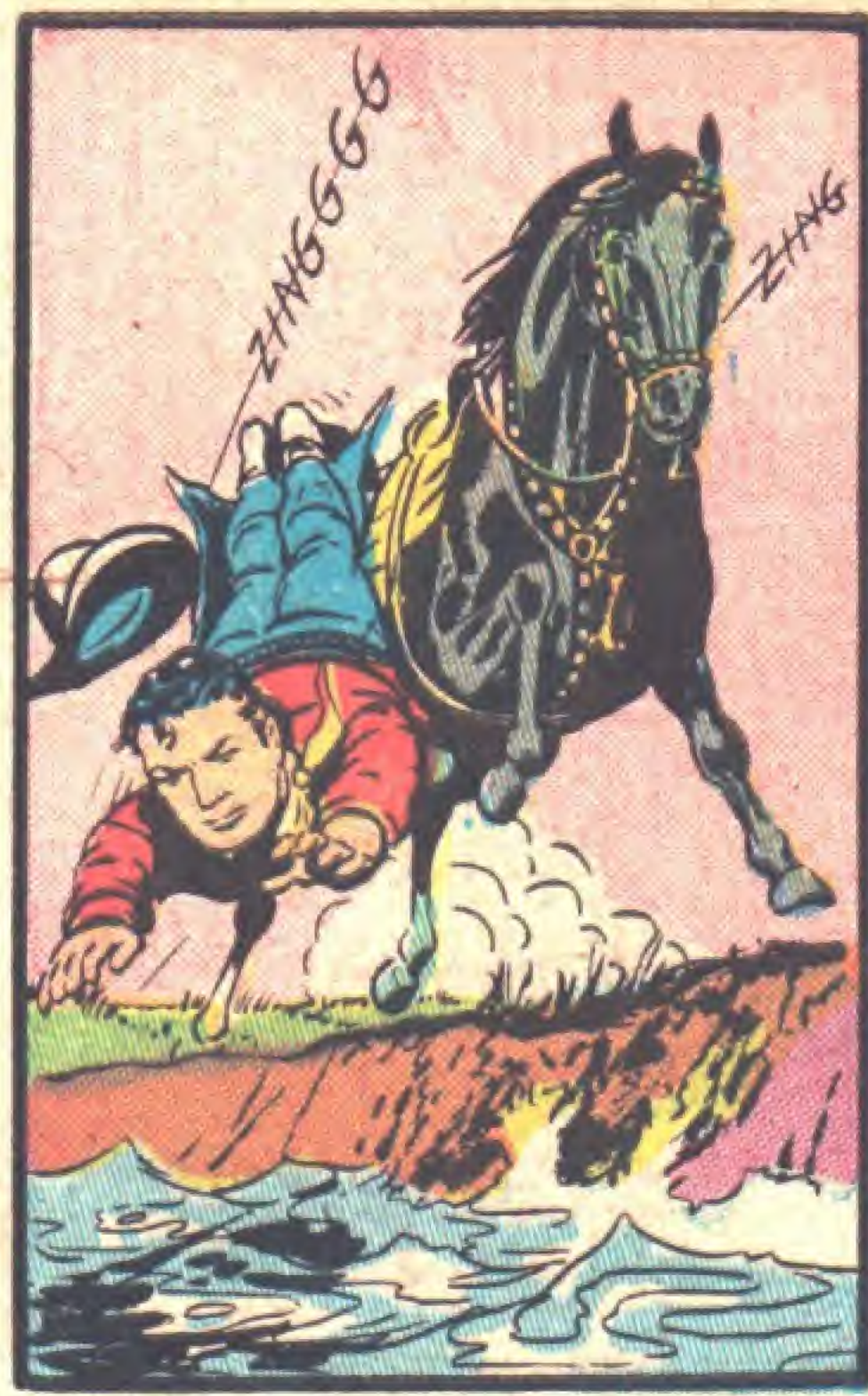
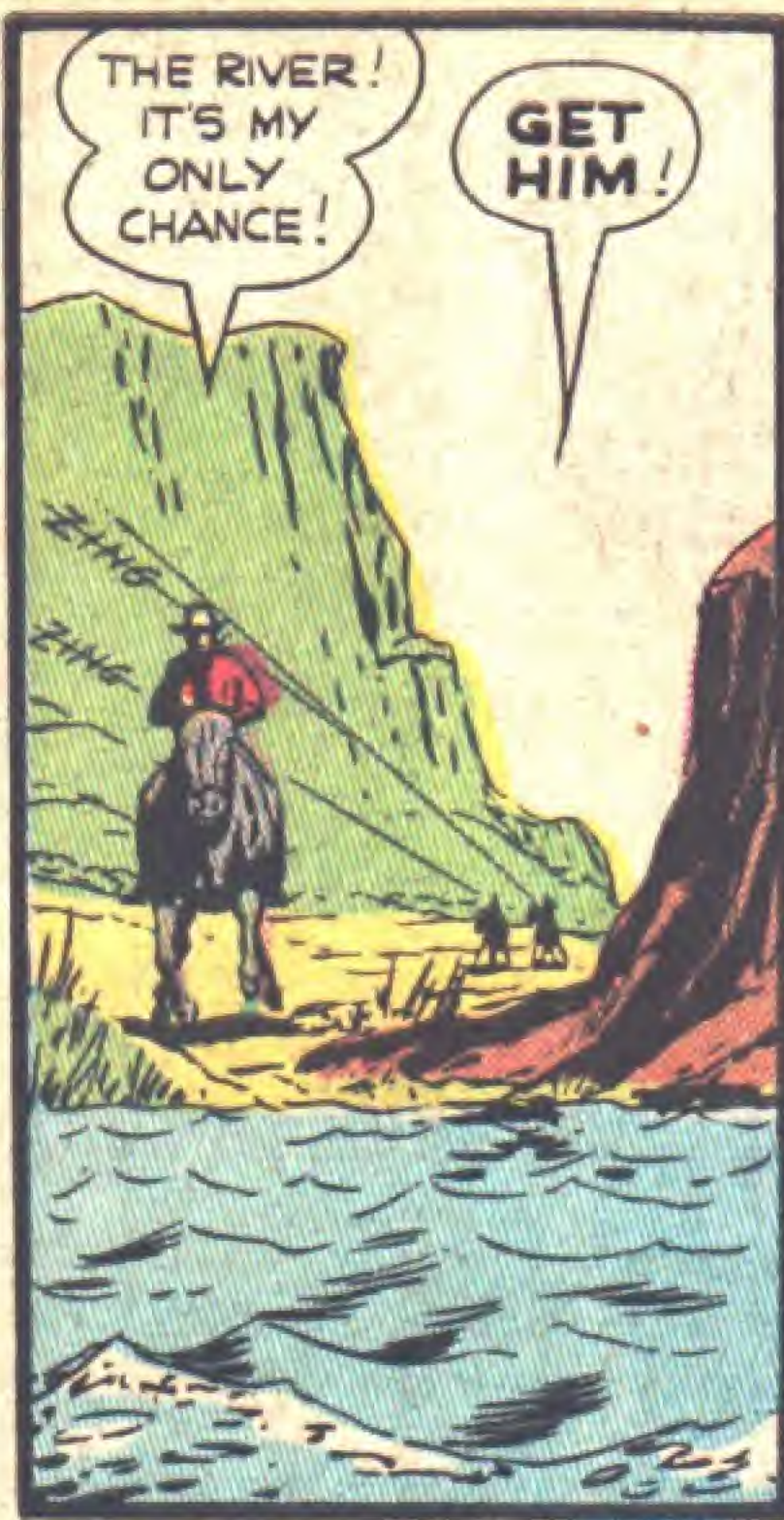


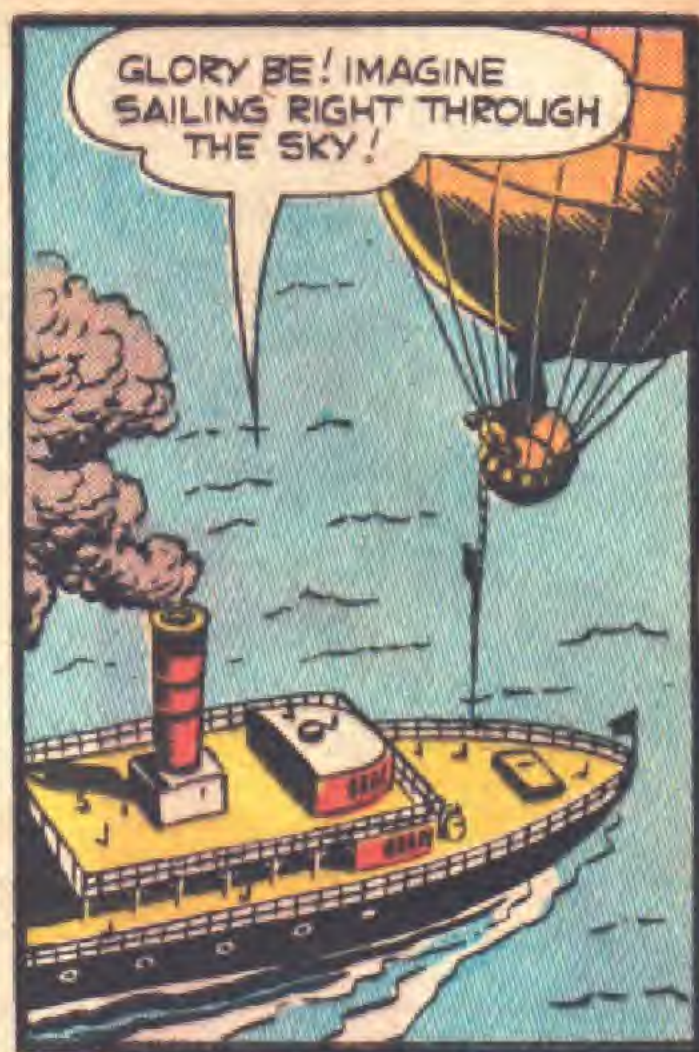
ULPP! LOOK! GRAPPLING HOOKS!... **FROM THE SKY** ...GOING RIGHT FER THE GOLD-CHEST!

KNOCK THOSE HOOKS OUT OF THE WAY! **QUICK! MOVE!**











STILL, GREAT HORSE!



IT'S THAT INJUN, STRAIGHT ARROW! LET HIM TRY TO FOLLOW US!



THIS TIME THEY HAVE ESCAPED! I MUST KNOW WHERE THEY WILL STRIKE NEXT...AND BE WAITING FOR THEM! BUT HOW? I HAVE IT!



TWICE THEY HAVE STRUCK FOR GOLD--AND THE THURSDAY EXPRESS TRAIN FROM QUARTZ JUNCTION CARRIES MUCH GOLD! I SHALL GET MY COMANCHE BROTHERS TO AID ME!



THURSDAY, AS THE EXPRESS TRAIN LEAVES QUARTZ JUNCTION...

STILL, GREAT HORSE! WE MUST BE ALERT FOR THE SIGNAL!

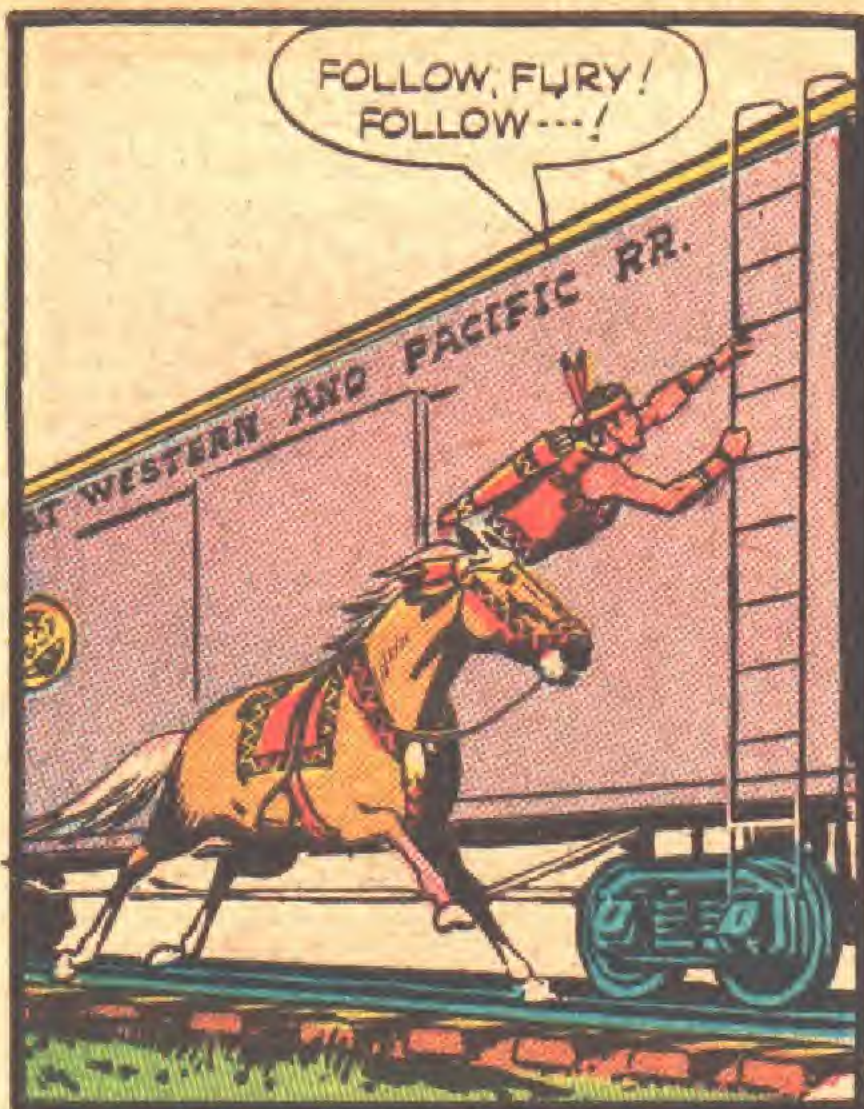


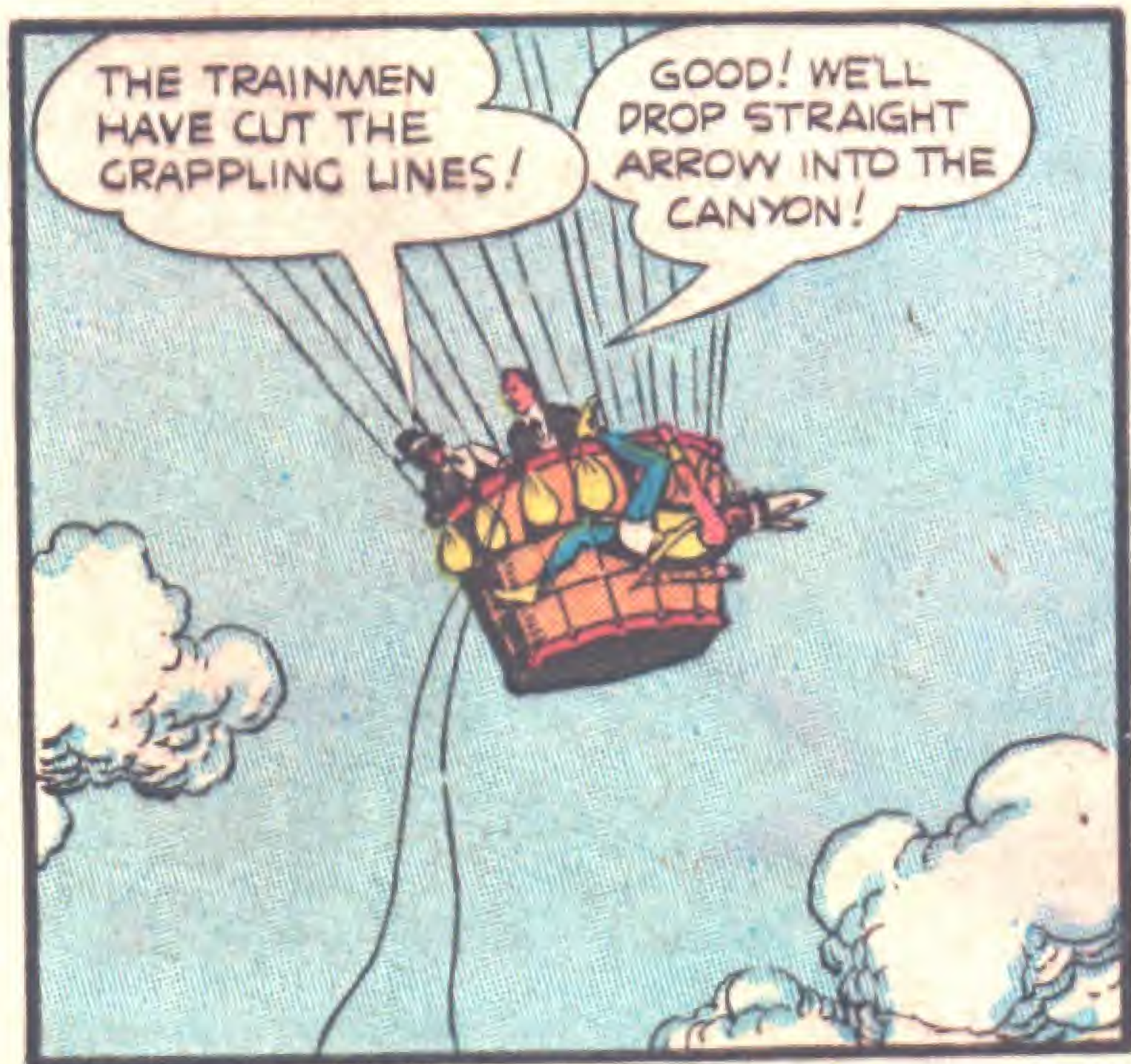
THIRTY MINUTES LATER...

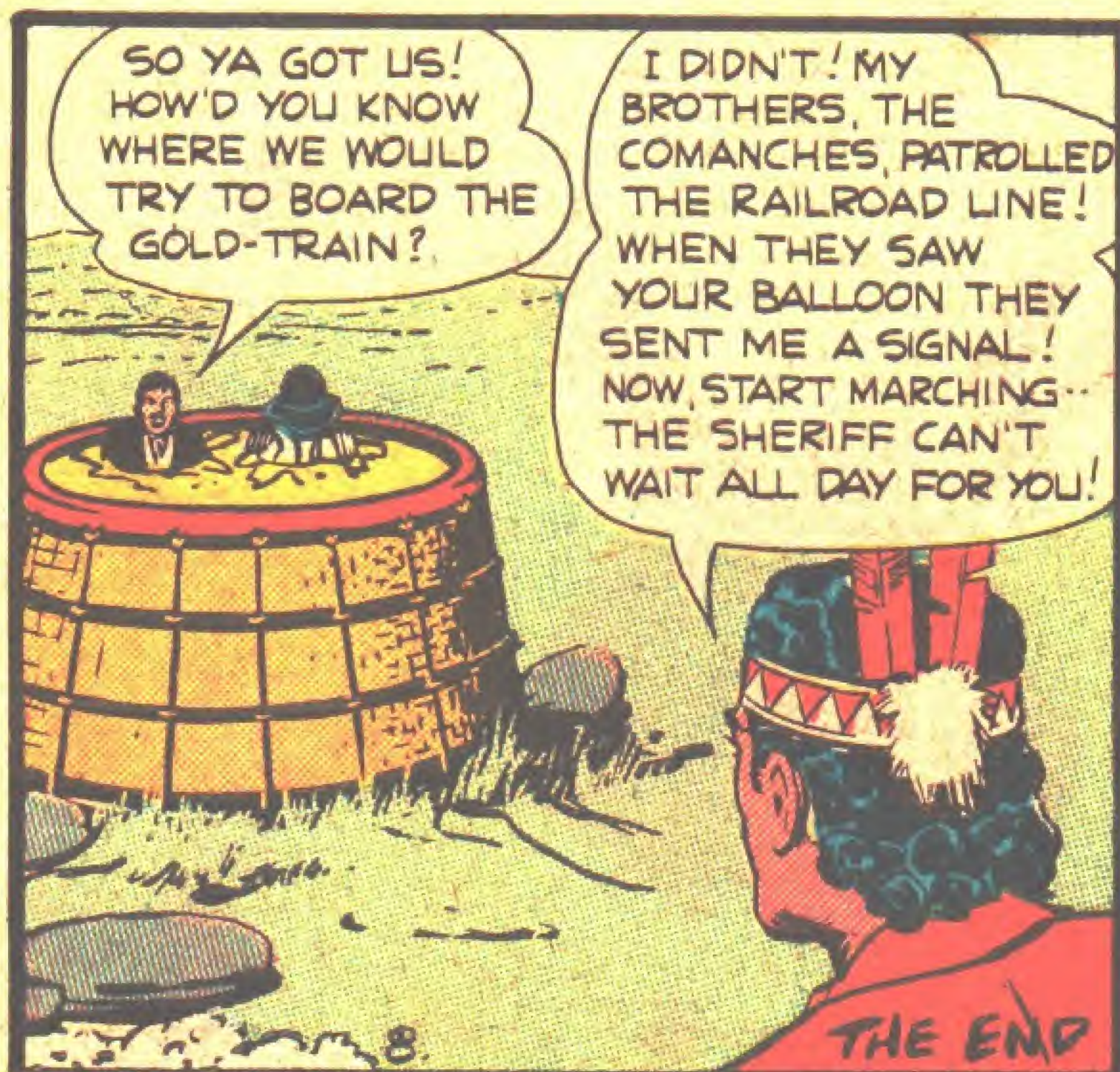
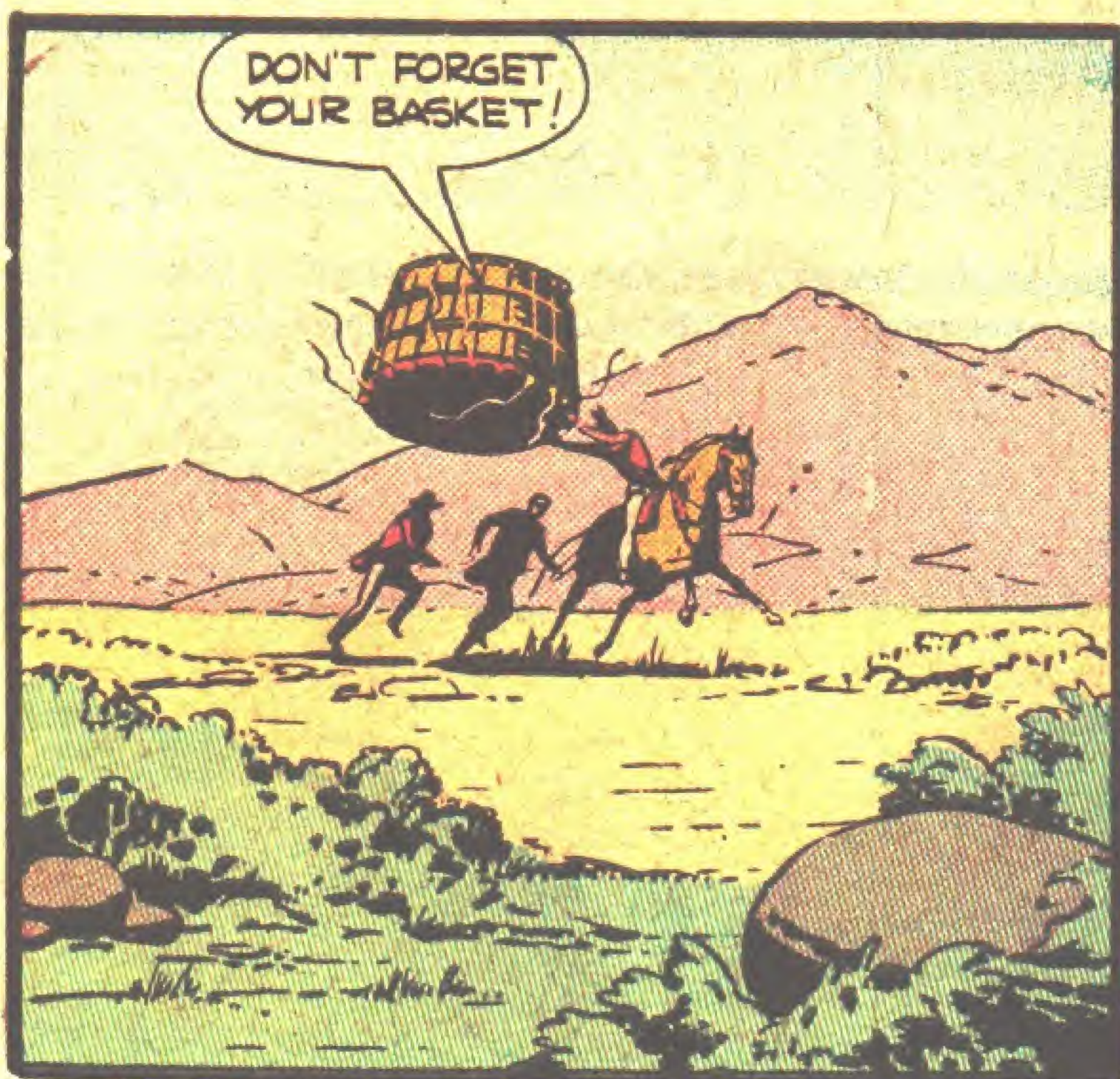
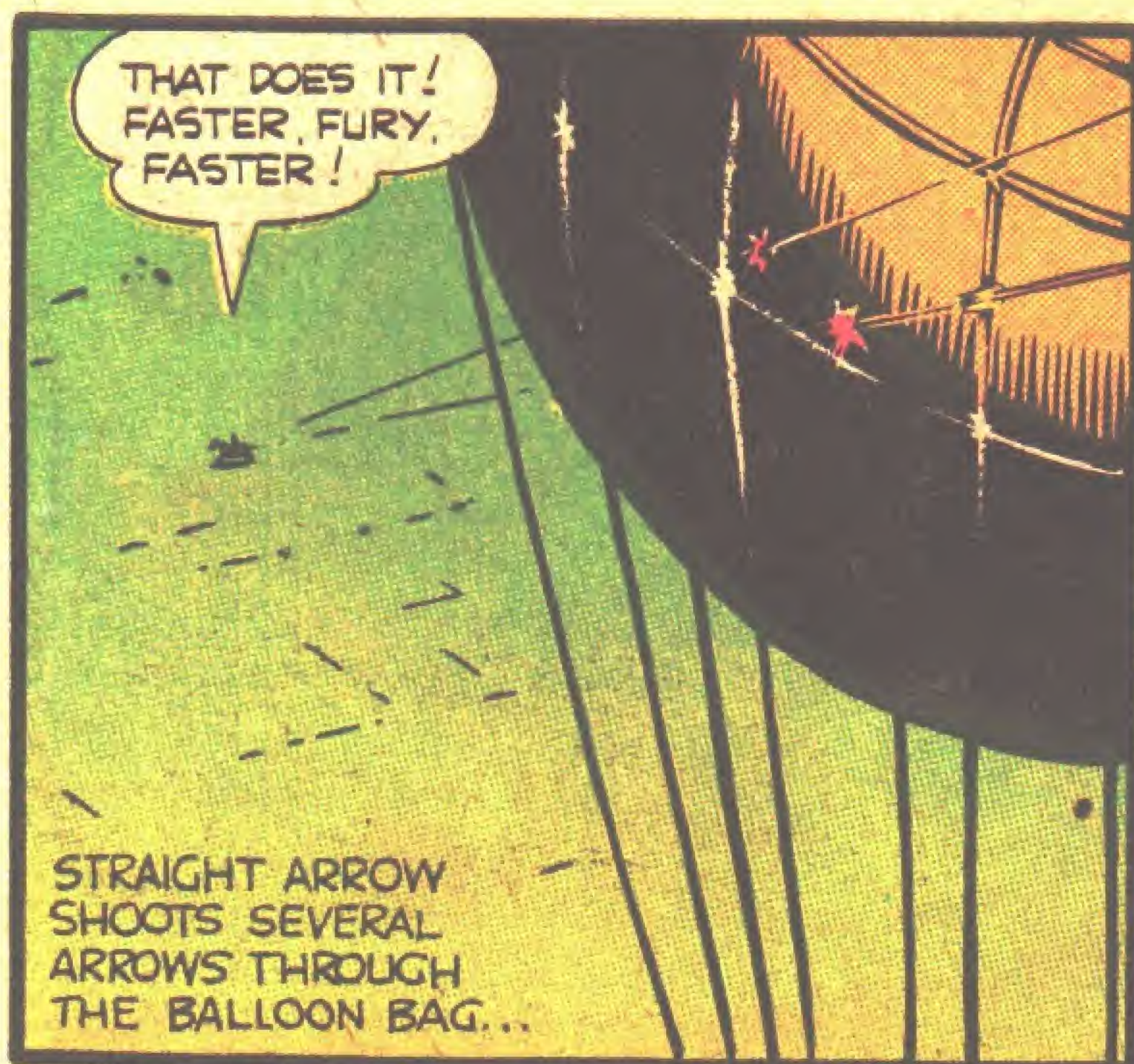
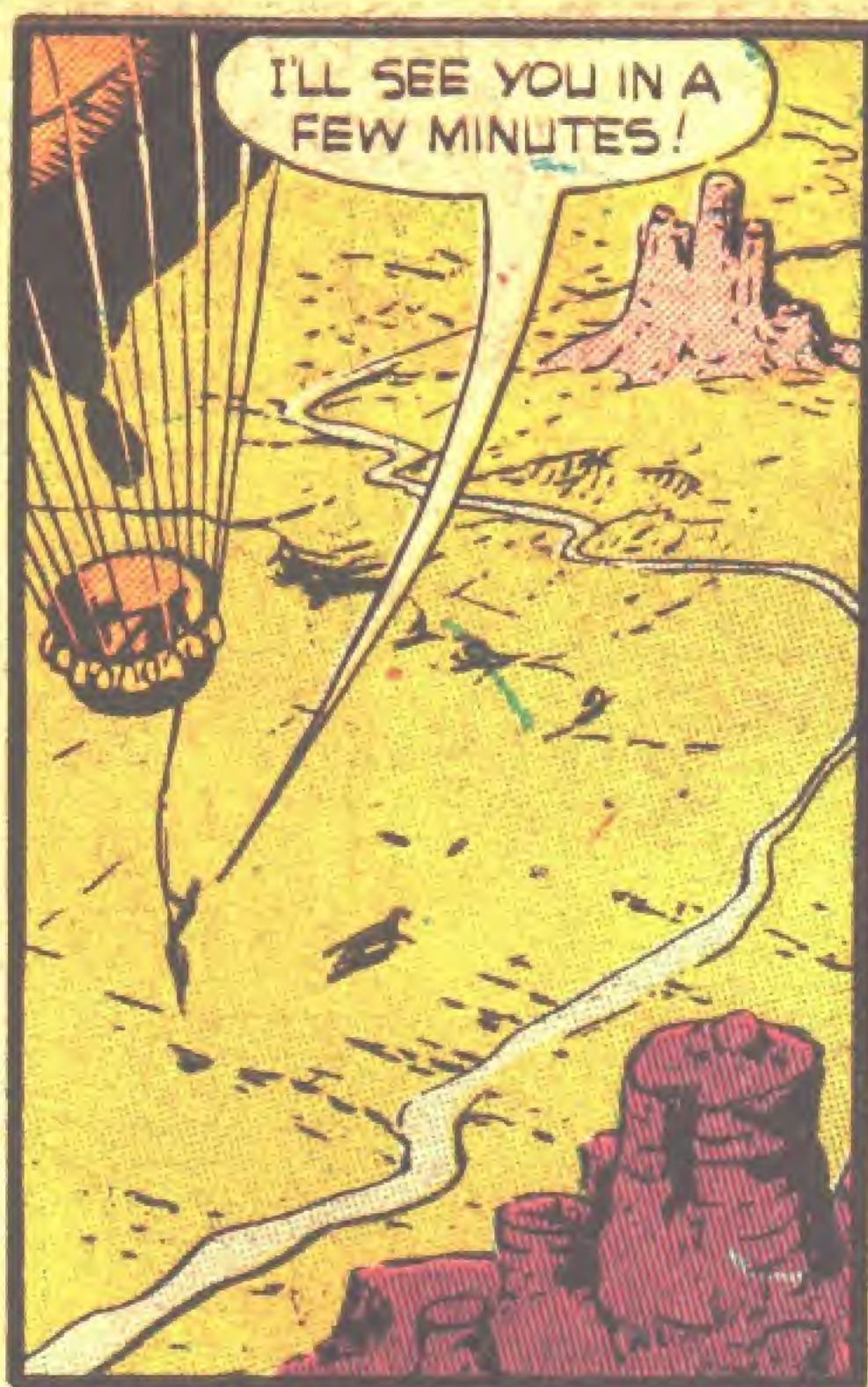
THE SMOKE SIGNAL! UP, FURY! WE SHALL BE NEEDED AT HANGMAN'S CANYON!



FASTER, GREAT HORSE, FASTER!







STRAIGHT ARROW

THE PLAINS INDIAN WARSHIELD IS LIKE A WARRIOR'S RIGHT ARM. IT IS WITH HIM IN EVERY FIGHT. IT SHIELDS HIM FROM ARROWS AND BLOWS OF THE WARCLUB, AND ITS BRIGHTLY-DECORATED FACE TELLS THE STORY OF HIS BRAVE DEEDS...

BUT BEFORE HE WINS ANY GLORY, THE FACE OF HIS WARSHIELD IS BARE. THEN IT IS UP TO THE WARRIOR HIMSELF TO GO OUT INTO COMBAT, TO MAKE MANY COUPS, THAT HIS SHIELD MAY TELL OF HIS BRAVERY. THIS, THEN, IS SUCH A STORY, A STORY OF THE TIME WHEN STRAIGHT ARROW WAS A YOUNG WARRIOR, TOLD BY...

"The Shield of of STRAIGHT-ARROW"

Illustration by Fred Meagher

"AIE, TODAY STRAIGHT ARROW HANGS A NEW WARSHIELD ON HIS COUPSTICK! TODAY HE CHOOSES ANOTHER, A YOUNGER AND A STRONGER SHIELD, TO RIDE WITH HIM INTO BATTLE! MY BUFFALO-HIDE FACE IS SCARRED WITH BLOWS, MY WILLOW FRAME IS WEAK FROM MANY BATTLES. BUT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WAS YOUNG... STRONG! AI! LISTEN TO MY TALE, AND JUDGE FOR YOURSELF..."

"STRAIGHT ARROW MADE ME OF BUFFALO HIDE, TANNED AND STRETCHED... OF STRONG WILLOW WITHEES, CUNNINGLY JOINTED..."

THERE IS NO MARK ON YOU TO TELL OF MY BRAVE DEEDS, BECAUSE I HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING! BUT I WILL. SOME- DAY, I WILL..."

STOP MOONING, STRAIGHT ARROW! STALKING HORSE IS FORMING A BUFFALO HUNTING PARTY. HE'S ASKED YOU TO COME ALONG!

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!



A HUNT WITH STALKING HORSE! HU! MAYBE THERE'LL BE A CHANCE FOR A COUP OR TWO ALONG THE WAY!



"AS MY YOUNG MASTER JOINED THE OTHER COMANCHES, THEY WHOOPED IN DELIGHT..."

HA!... HE CARRIES A WAR SHIELD! HE THINKS A BUFFALO WILL THROW A HORN AT HIM!

HA!
HA!

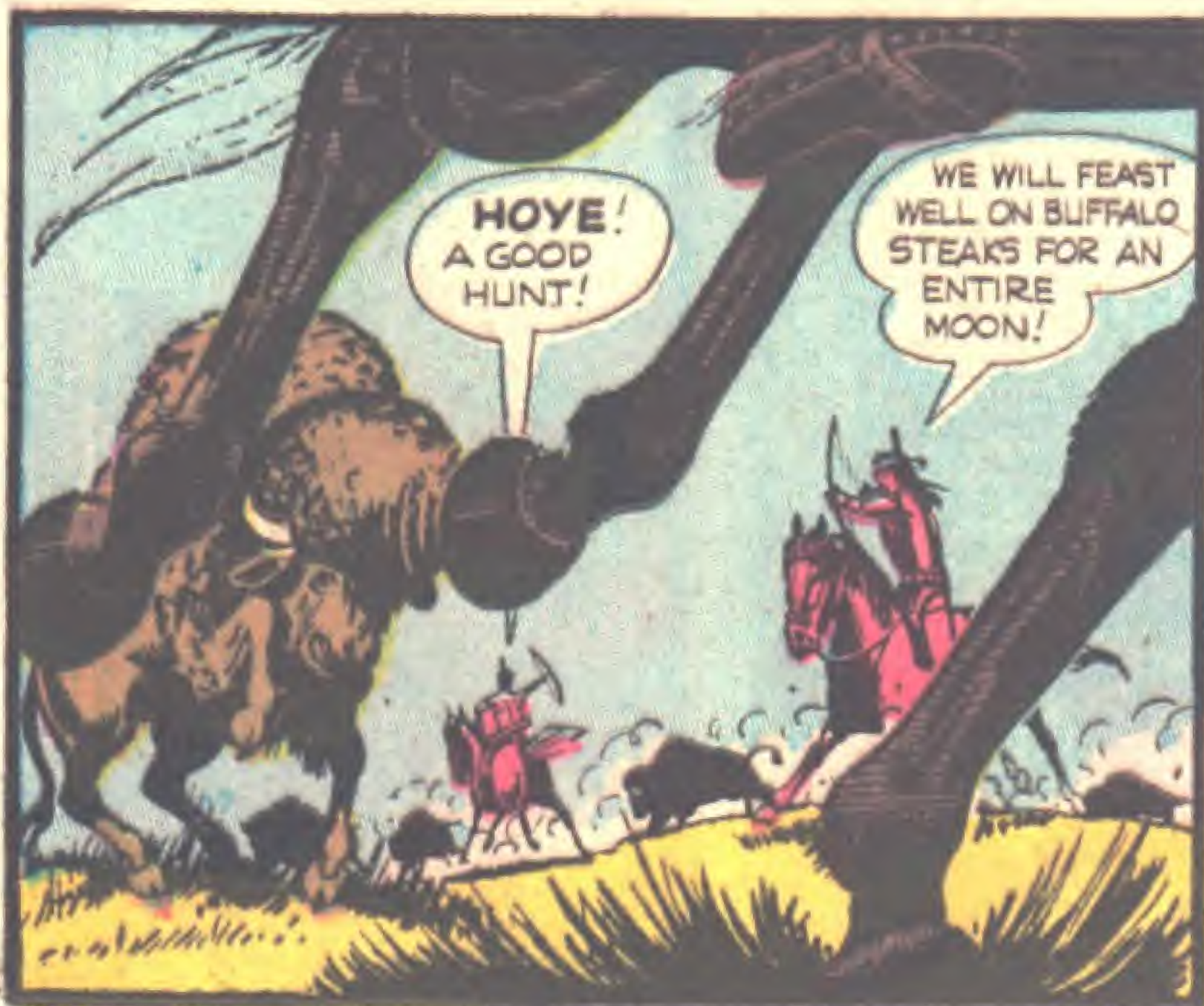


"BUT THERE WAS NO TIME FOR LAUGHTER OR JOKES WHEN STALKING HORSE RODE FORWARD. HE WAS A GRIM OLD WARRIOR, AND HE MEANT BUSINESS..."



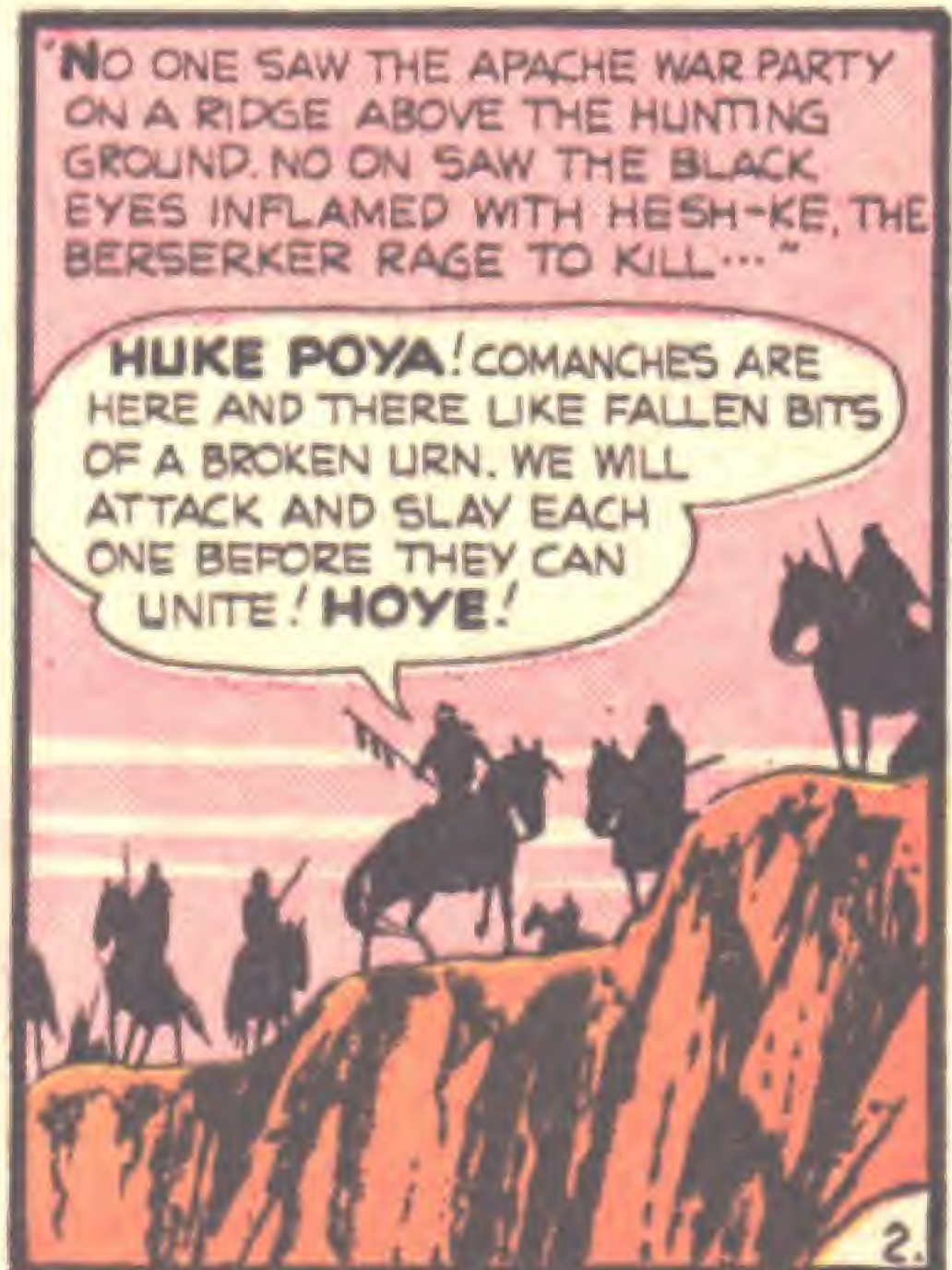
"FOR THREE DAYS WE RODE, AND THEN..."

AIII...EEE...YAAA!
KADL-HIA... THE BUFFALO!



HOYE!
A GOOD HUNT!

WE WILL FEAST WELL ON BUFFALO STEAKS FOR AN ENTIRE MOON!



"NO ONE SAW THE APACHE WAR PARTY ON A RIDGE ABOVE THE HUNTING GROUND. NO ONE SAW THE BLACK EYES INFLAMED WITH HESH-KE, THE BERSERKER RAGE TO KILL..."

HUKE POYA! COMANCHES ARE HERE AND THERE LIKE FALLEN BITS OF A BROKEN URN. WE WILL ATTACK AND SLAY EACH ONE BEFORE THEY CAN UNITE! HOYE!



"WITH TWIG AND BUFFALO CHIP HE BUILT THREE SIGNAL FIRES, AND WITH HERB AND ROOT, HE WORKED ON HIS WOUNDED BROTHER WARRIORS..."

THE SMOKE SIGNALS WILL BRING OUR PEOPLE, TO TEND YOUR WOUNDS...

I GO AFTER THE APACHES! THEY STOLE OUR BUFFALO KILL AND OUR PONIES!

HAS LOKYUT STOLEN YOUR WITS? WHAT CAN ONE UNTRIED WARRIOR--A YOUTH WITH A BARE-FACED WAR-SHIELD DO?

IF THE APACHES LEARN THEY CAN ATTACK COMANCHES WHENEVER THEY WANT, WITHOUT PUNISHMENT--THEY WILL ALWAYS BE ATTACKING OUR HUNTING PARTIES!

UPWARD INTO THE TIMBER SLOPES, STRAIGHT ARROW FOLLOWED THE APACHES. AIE, IT WAS A RASH, HARE-BRAINED THING HE DID--BUT REMEMBER, HE WAS A YOUNG WARRIOR ON HIS FIRST WAR TRAIL!"

THEY GO SLOWLY WITH THE PONIES LADEN WITH BUFFALO MEAT. IT IS NOT HARD TO TRACK THEM. SOON I WILL OVERTAKE THEM!

"THE APACHES WERE NOT TAKEN BY SURPRISE..."

ONE LONE COMANCHE RIDES AFTER US! HIS SHIELD IS BARE, SO HE IS A YOUNG, UNTRIED WARRIOR. FOUR OF YOU GO AND BRING ME HIS SCALP!

HU--THE APACHES COME! STEADY, FURY! KYU'E, MY SHIELD--BE FIRM!

"FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE WORLD COME THE APACHES, SCREAMING THICKLY! STRAIGHT ARROW KNEW NOT WHICH WAY TO TURN! HATE IN THEIR EYES, AND DEATH IN THEIR WEAPONS..."



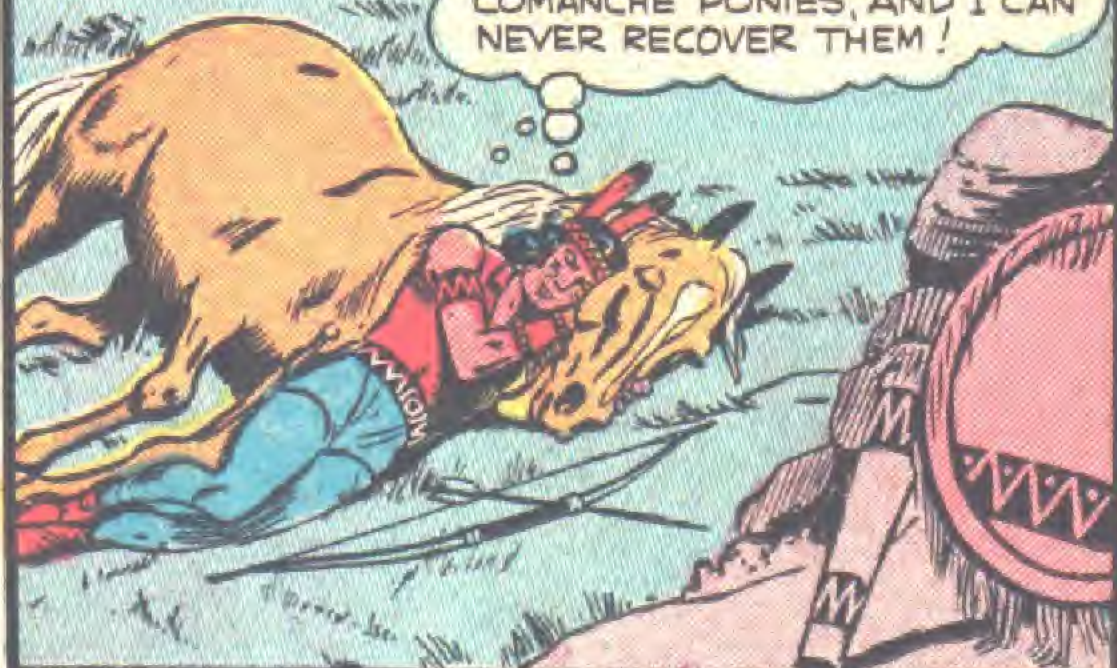
"BUT AS THE DAYS PASSED, NO COMANCHES CAME. STRAIGHT ARROW CAMPED AT NIGHT WITHOUT A FIRE AND ATE BERRIES TO KEEP UP HIS STRENGTH..."

MY PEOPLE THINK ME DEAD! AND WITHOUT THEM, I AM HELPLESS! HOW CAN I STOP THE APACHES FROM ENTERING THEIR OWN COUNTRY?

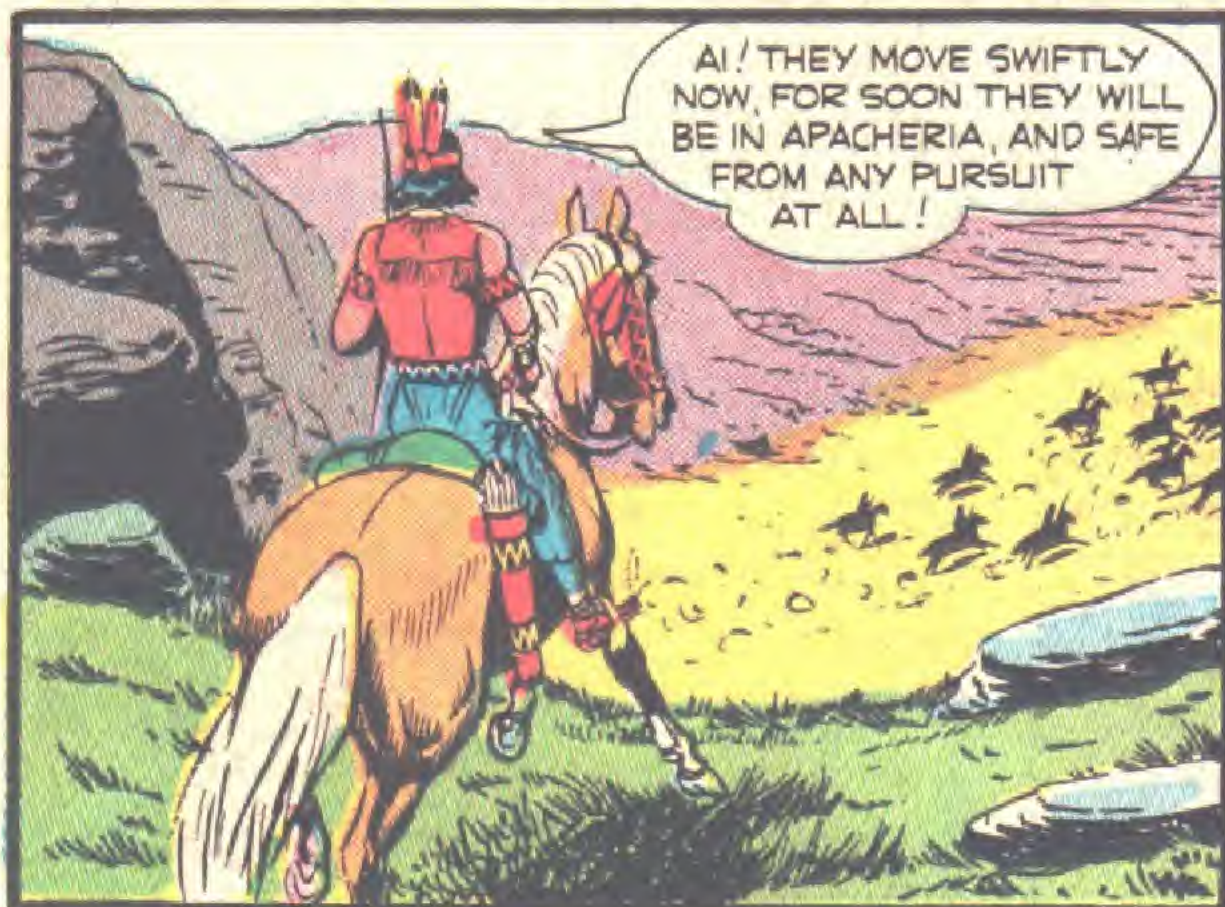


"HE LAY FOR WARMTH AGAINST HIS PONY, FURY, BUT HE RARELY SLEPT..."

ONCE THEY ENTER THEIR COUNTRY, THEY WILL SPLIT UP THE BUFFALO AND THE COMANCHE PONIES, AND I CAN NEVER RECOVER THEM!



AI! THEY MOVE SWIFTLY NOW, FOR SOON THEY WILL BE IN APACHERIA, AND SAFE FROM ANY PURSUIT AT ALL!



I CAN'T DO A THING TO STOP THEM! WHAT CAN ONE WARRIOR DO AGAINST TWENTY!



"WITH THE STUBBORN PATIENCE OF THE INDIAN, STRAIGHT ARROW DID NOT GIVE UP. ONE COLD MORNING HE SHOT A RABBIT AND BUILT A FIRE TO COOK IT..."

THEY WILL NEVER SEE THE SMOKE FROM THIS FIRE IN THE STRONG WINDS THAT ARE BLOWING!

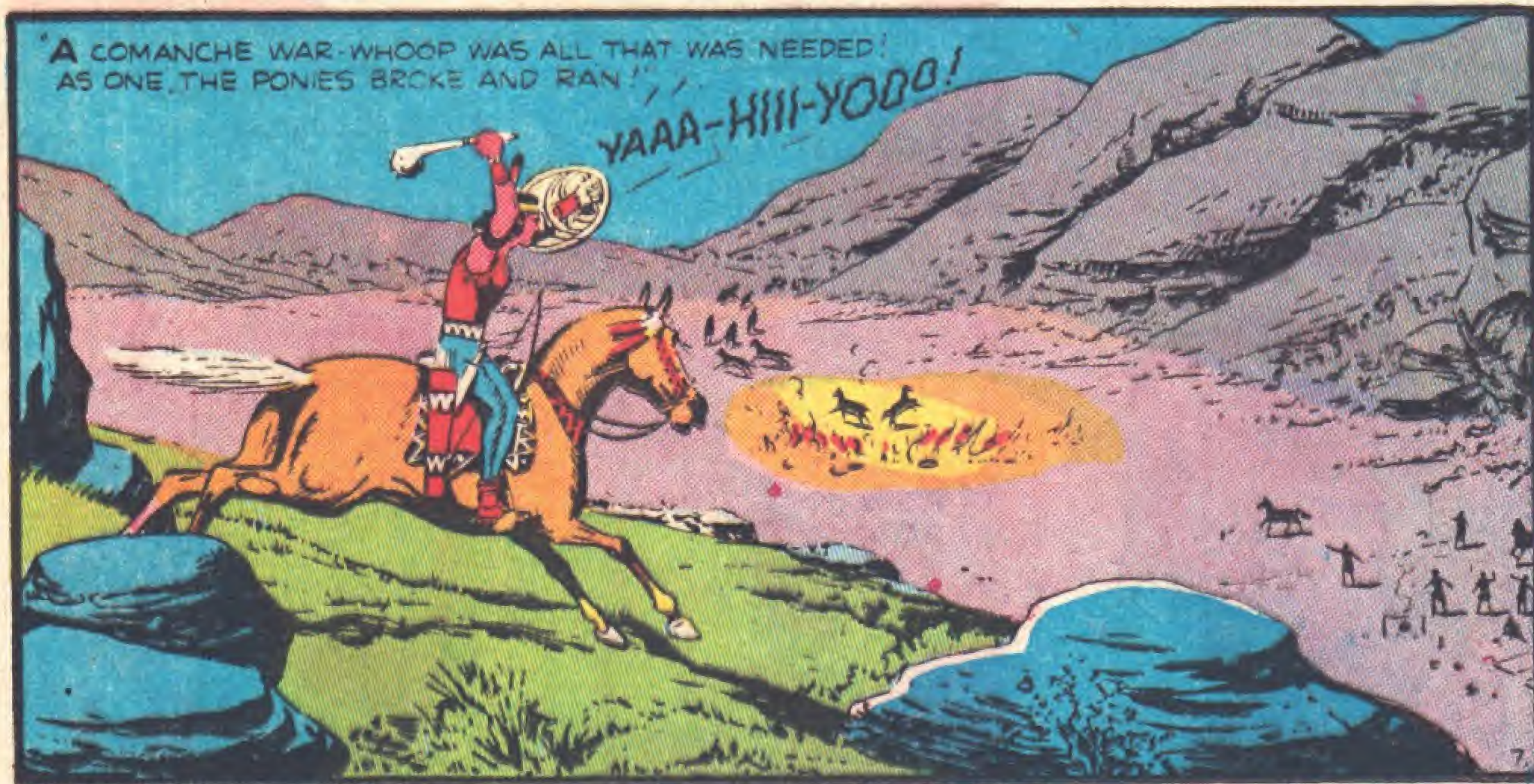


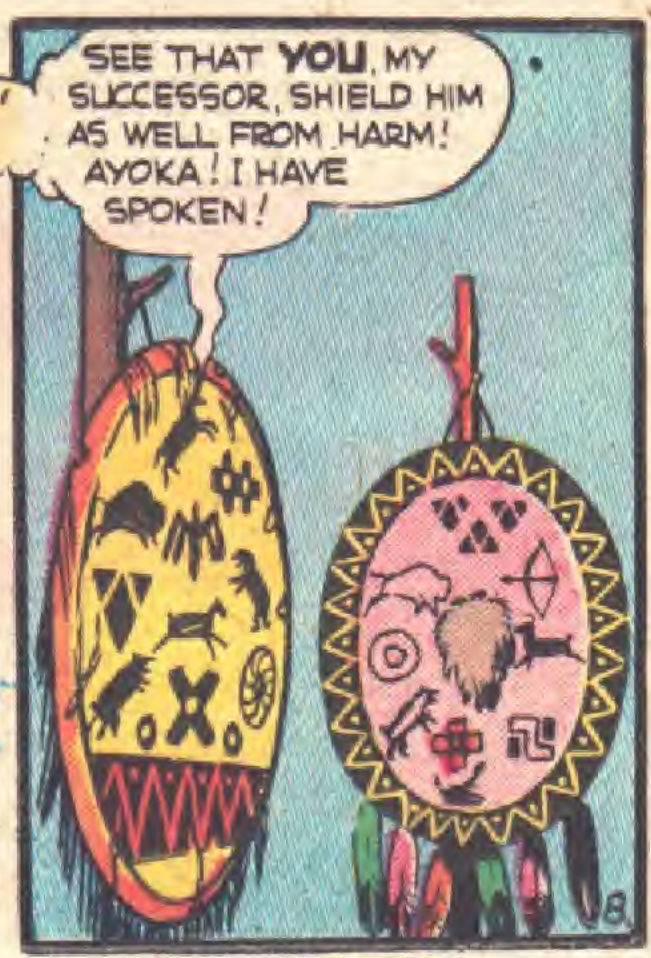
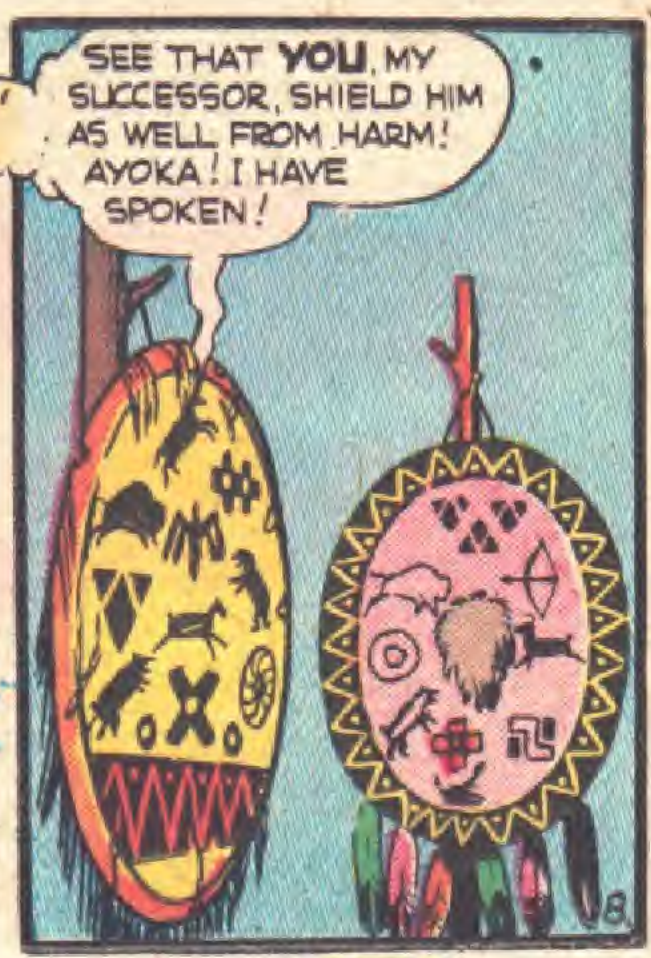
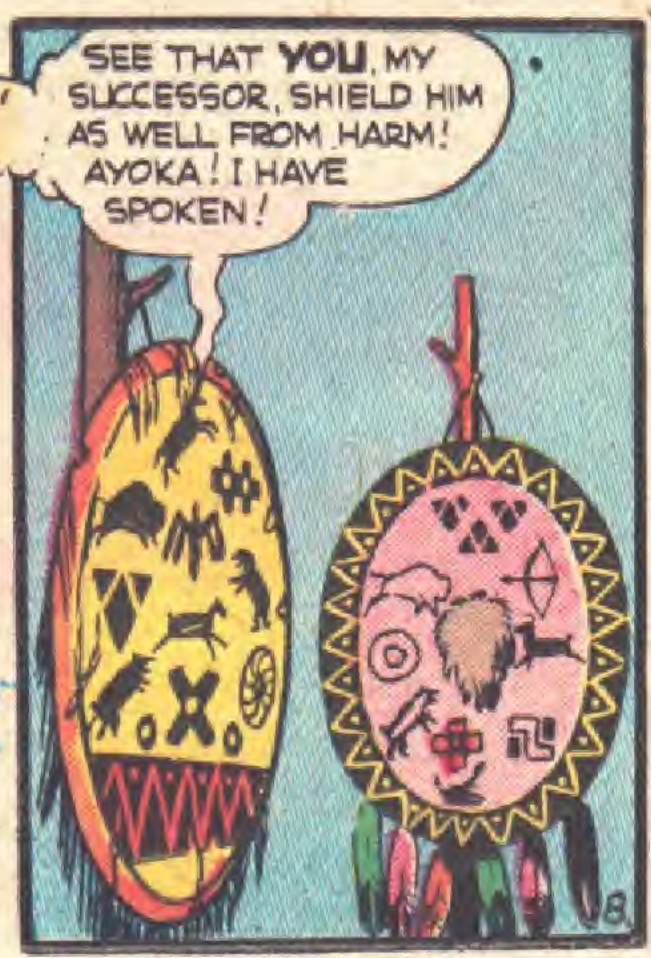
"AS HE ATE, THE WINDS BLEW A FEW EMBERS FROM THE FIRE ONTO THE FRINGES THAT DECORATED MY ROUNDED SIDES..."



MY SHIELD'S BURNING! I'LL ROLL IT ALONG THE GROUND TO PUT OUT THE FIRE!







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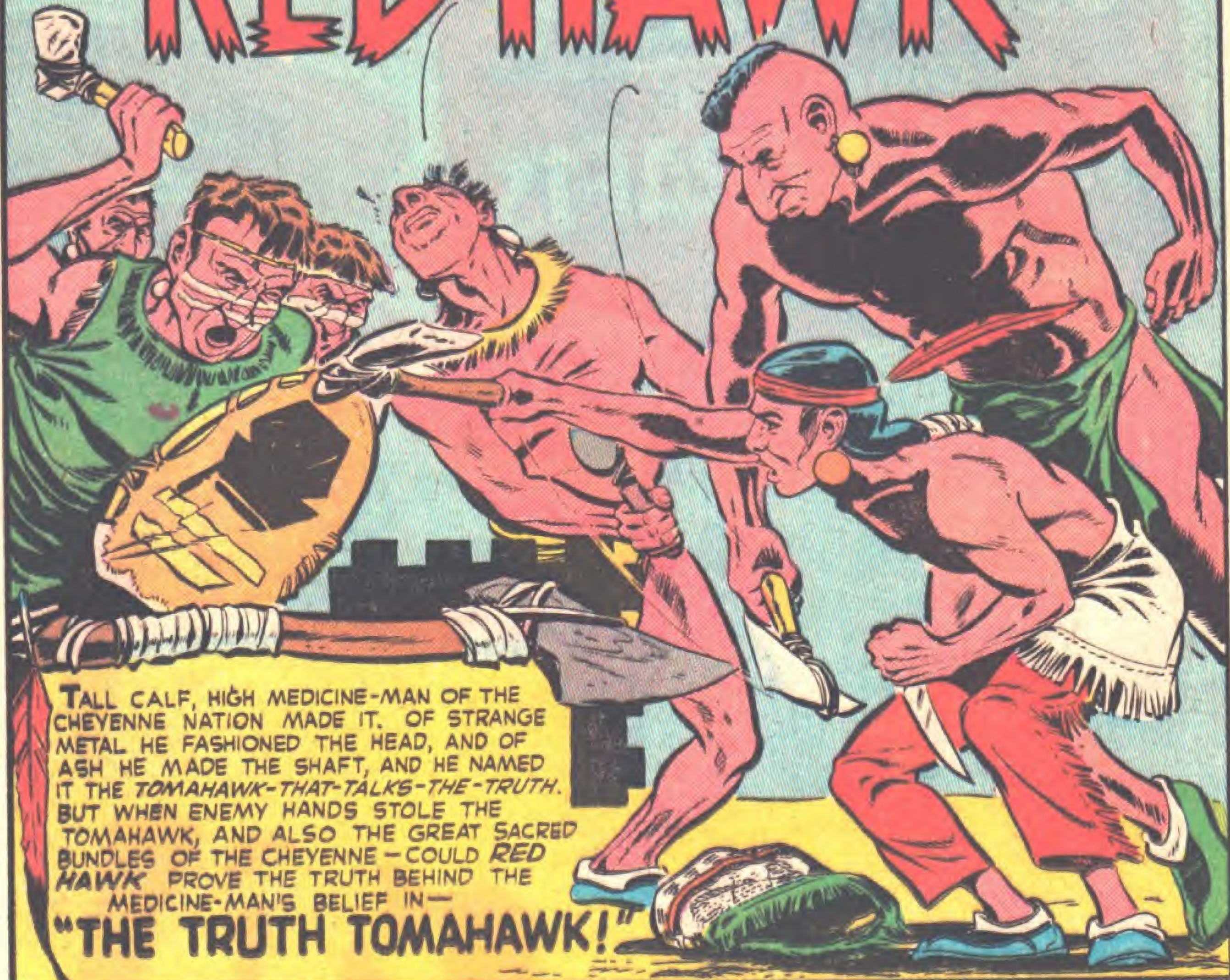
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RED HAWK

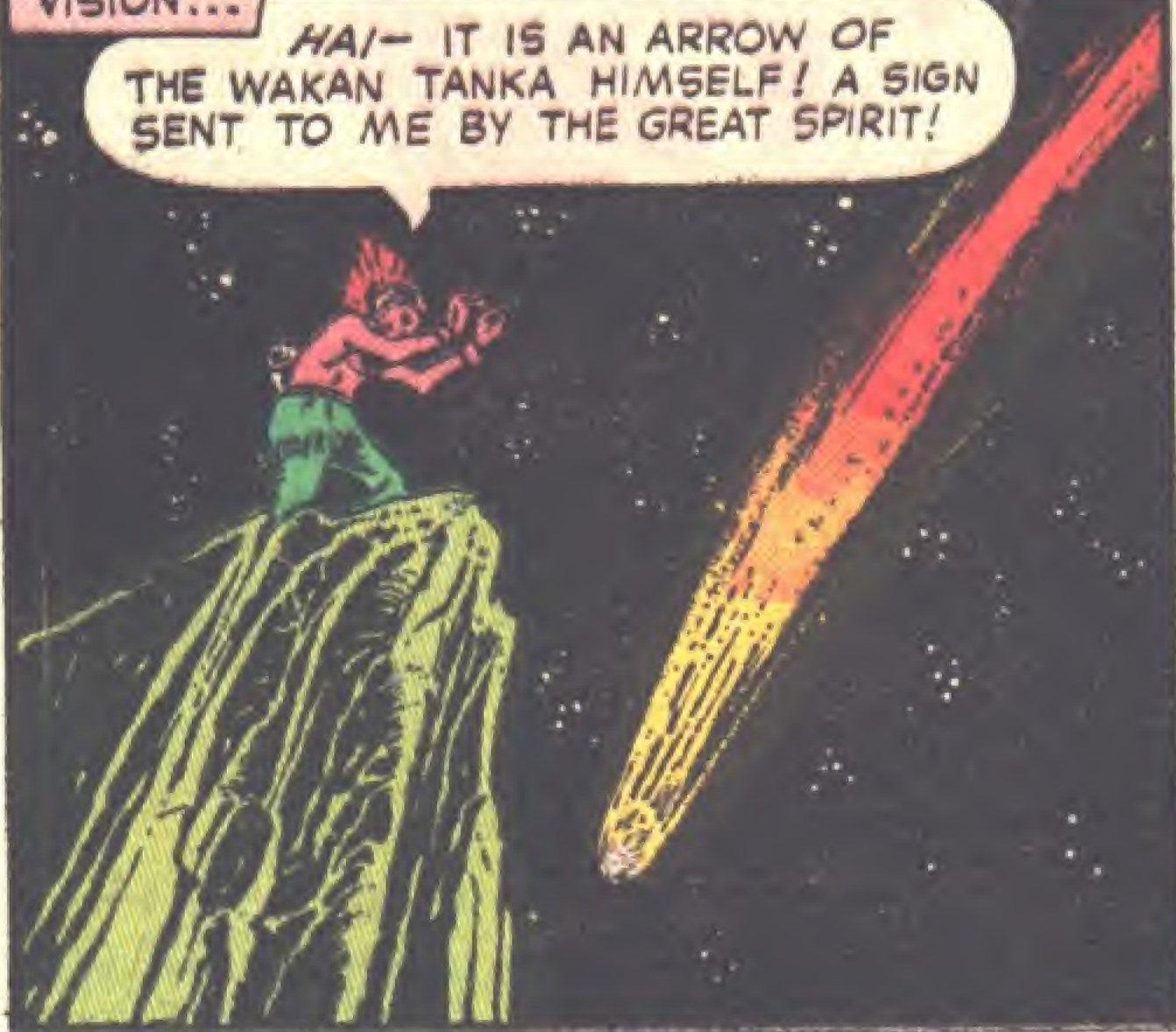


TALL CALF, HIGH MEDICINE-MAN OF THE CHEYENNE NATION MADE IT. OF STRANGE METAL HE FASHIONED THE HEAD, AND OF ASH HE MADE THE SHAFT, AND HE NAMED IT THE TOMAHAWK-THAT-TALKS-THE-TRUTH. BUT WHEN ENEMY HANDS STOLE THE TOMAHAWK, AND ALSO THE GREAT SACRED BUNDLES OF THE CHEYENNE—COULD **RED HAWK** PROVE THE TRUTH BEHIND THE MEDICINE-MAN'S BELIEF IN—

"THE TRUTH TOMAHAWK!"

THE METAL CAME DOWN FROM THE SKY IN A BURST OF FLAME, AND TO TALL CALF CAME A VISION...

HA!— IT IS AN ARROW OF THE WAKAN TANKA HIMSELF! A SIGN SENT TO ME BY THE GREAT SPIRIT!



THE WAKAN TANKA BLESSES OUR PEOPLE! SEE HIS METAL FROM WHICH I SHAPE THE TOMAHAWK HEAD! IT SHALL BE A **SACRED** TOMAHAWK—WITH THE POWER TO KNOW THE TRUTH AND SEE JUSTICE DONE!



AS THE CHEYENNE MEDICINE MAN SWAYED IN THE ECSTASY OF HIS "POWER" AND SHAPED THE TOMAHAWK HEAD, **RED HAWK** WAS FAR AFIELD WITH A SMALL HUNTING PARTY...

HU! ONE WARRIOR FLEES BEFORE MANY! LET'S EVEN UP THE ODDS!



HOYE!



AS HIS PONY REARS AND LASHES OUT WITH SHARP HOOF, RED HAWK THRUSTS FORWARD WITH HIS CLUB...

I AM NO MAN DISMOUNTED AND WEAPONLESS! **HAI**—SEE HOW YOU LIKE A TASTE OF CHEYENNE WARFARE!



A SHOWER OF WAR ARROWS COMPLETES THE BITTER DEFEAT FOR THE LIPAN BRAVES...



YOU'RE SAFE ENOUGH NOW. WHY WERE THEY AFTER YOU?

HO! ALONE I MET AND BEAT THREE OF THEIR BEST FIGHTERS! THEY ALL HATE AND FEAR ME!



OVER FIVE SCORE MEN HAVE I KILLED IN BATTLE! ALONE I MET **AN-HA-DE!** THE GRIZZLY KING AND SLEW HIM WITH A KNIFE! MY NAME IS **WOUNDED DEER**—GREATEST FIGHTER ON THE PLAINS!

???



TO RED HAWK, BY THE COUNCIL FIRES OF HIS PEOPLE OR AT THE TRIBAL GATHERINGS, COMES THE IDEA THAT HE HAS CAUGHT A BEAR BY HIS TAIL—FOR WOUNDED DEER IS A BRAGGART BEYOND COMPARE.

I KILLED **THREE** BUFFALO WITH **ONE** ARROW. IT WENT THROUGH THEM ALL, AND THEY DROPPED DEAD IN THEIR TRACKS!

OH NO!



THOUGH WOUNDED DEER WAS (ACCORDING TO HIM) THE BRAVEST AND STRONGEST AND MOST WONDERFUL WARRIOR IN THE WHOLE WORLD HE DID NOT DO SO WELL WHEN THE CHEYENNE MEN GATHERED TOGETHER TO MATCH MUSCLES AND SKILLS...

MY FOOT SLIPPED! THAT'S WHY YOU THREW ME SO EASILY!

THE WIND FAVORED YOU WHEN YOU SHOT THREE SHAFTS INTO THE TARGET—IT BLOWS MY ARROWS WIDE OF THE MARK!

THERE WAS A CRACK IN MY BOW. THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T HIT ANYTHING OUT HUNTING!



SOME WEEKS AFTER WOUNDED DEER HAS JOINED THE TRIBE, TALL CALF SHOUTS ALARM INTO THE MORNING MISTS...

THE SACRED MEDICINE BUNDLES! THE TRUTH TOMAHAWK! THE RELICS OF THE OLDEN DAYS—**ALL GONE!** STOLEN IN THE NIGHT!



WHO TOOK THEM?

TELL US, THAT WE MAY TRACK THEM DOWN!

THE EVIL SPIRITS! FOR THEY LEFT NO TRACK UPON THE GROUND! AI, THE WAKAN-TANKA HAS TURNED HIS FACE AGAINST US!



FEAR CAME AND BROODED IN THE CHEYENNE VILLAGE, FOR THESE RED WARRIORS ARE VERY SUPERSTITIOUS. WITHOUT THEIR POWER AND THEIR MEDICINE, THEY FEEL HELPLESS...

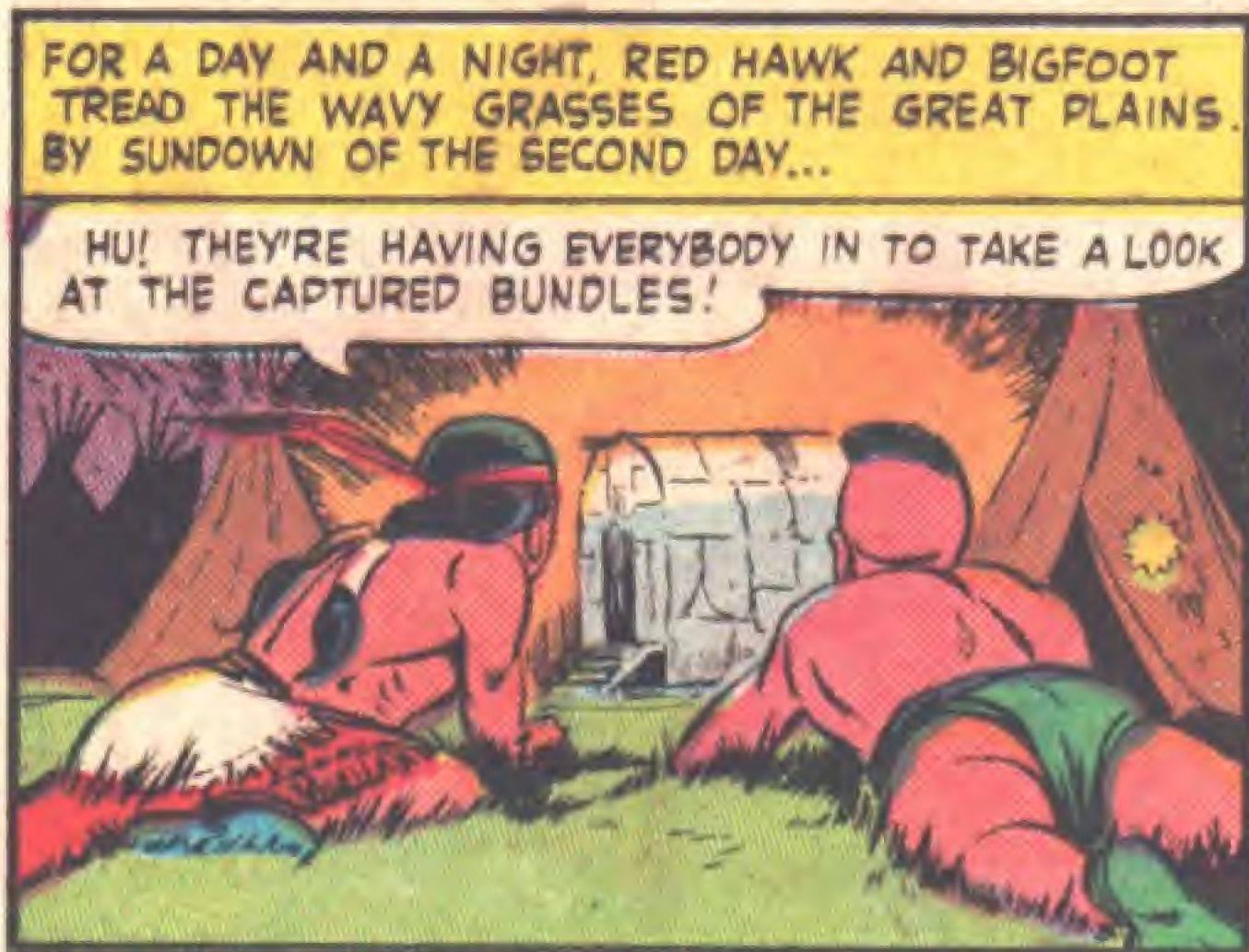
IF AN ENEMY ATTACKS, HE'LL KILL US!

AI, OUR WEAPONS WILL TURN AGAINST US!



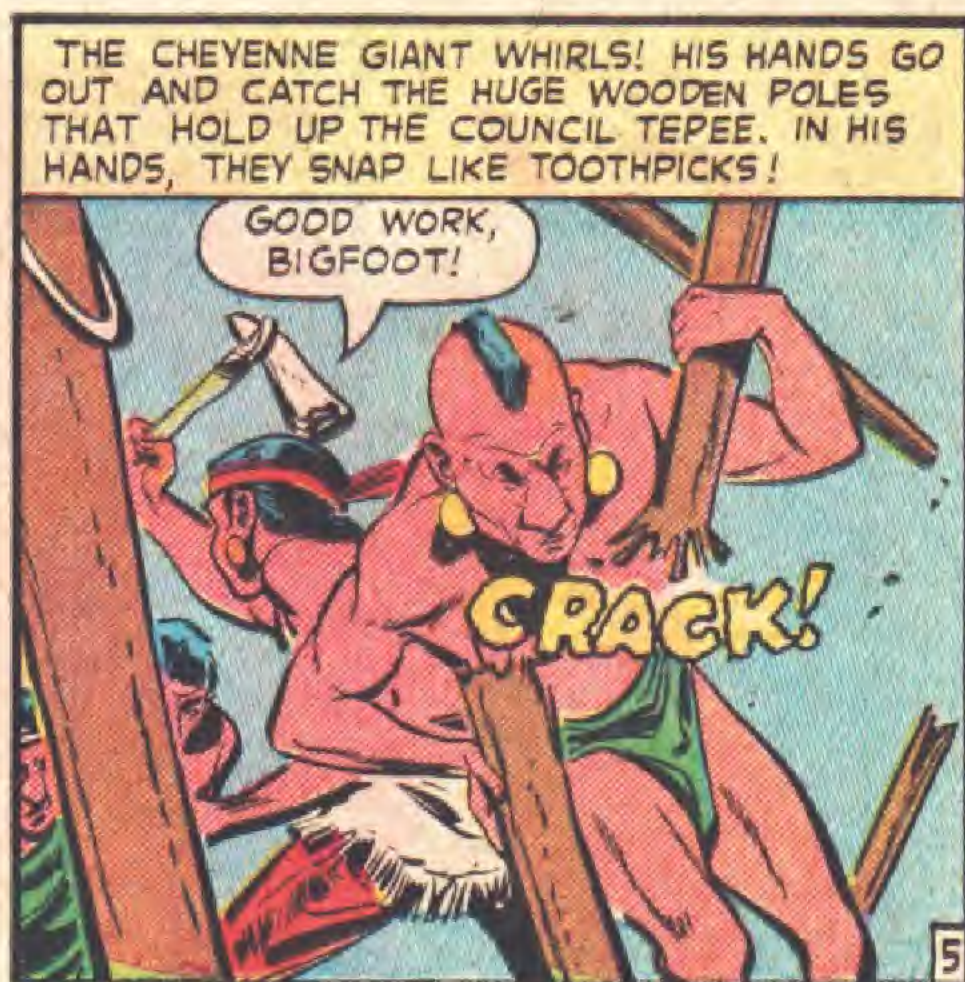
COME ON, BIGFOOT! GET THAT FRIGHTENED LOOK OFF YOUR FACE! THIS ISN'T MY FAULT—BUT I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!







LIKE AN ANGRY BEAR, BIGFOOT SHAKES HIS ASSAILANT LOOSE — FASTENS HUGE HANDS ON THE ANKLES OF ONE OF THEM — AND TURNS HIM INTO A HUMAN CLUB!



AS THE TEPEE POLES SNAP AND FALL, THE HUGE DEERSKIN TENT COLLAPSES...



I HAVE THE BUNDLES, BIGFOOT! HOLD THAT TEPEE UP FOR ME UNTIL I GET OUT. THEN COME RUNNING!



AS THE LIPANS FIGHT AND CLAW THEIR WAY OUT OF THE COLLAPSED TENT, RED HAWK AND BIGFOOT GALLOP OFF —

NOW WE WILL FIND OUT WHO GAVE THESE BUNDLES TO THE LIPANS! HU! THE **TRUTH TOMAHAWK** WILL TELL



TWO DAYS LATER, TALL CALF HOLDS ALOFT THE SACRED MEDICINE BUNDLES...

RED HAWK HAS BROUGHT ME NEWS THAT ONE AMONG US IS A TRAITOR! THE **TRUTH TOMAHAWK** HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE CEREMONIAL TEPEE. EVERY MAN IN THE TRIBE WILL ENTER AND TOUCH IT...



SLOWLY ALL THAT DAY THE MEN OF THE TRIBE ENTER THE SACRED TEPEE TO CLASP THE SHAFT OF THE **TOMAHAWK**...



LATER, IN THE DARKNESS OF THE TEPEE, THE HANDS OF THE MEN ARE EXAMINED...

RED HAWK SUGGESTED THAT THE SHAFT OF THE **TRUTH TOMAHAWK** BE COATED WITH THE *POWDER-THAT-GLEAMS-IN-THE-DARK*. THE HAND OF THE GUILTY MAN WILL **NOT** BEAR THIS MARK UPON HIM — FOR IN FEAR, HE DID NOT TOUCH THE SHAFT!



ED. NOTE: PHOSPHORUS

WOUNDED DEER! HE STOLE YOUR MOCCASINS! WE SAW *HIS* TRACK MARKS IN YOUR TEPEE, AND THOUGHT THEM *YOUR OWN*! HAI — AS THIS LOUD-MOUTH CAME INTO OUR CAMP HE SHALL GO OUT — WHIPPED AND DISGRACED!



THE END

STRAIGHT ARROW

THE ROAD GOING WEST SCORCHED ITS WAY THROUGH A SCREAMING INFERNO OF SMOKING GUNS AND RED-HOT PERIL, BUT THE TRAIL PUSHED ON JUST THE SAME, BLAZED BY MEN LIKE STRAIGHT ARROW AND HIS SIDE-KICK, PACKY MCCLOUD, WHO HAD FACED MANY DANGERS BEFORE, BUT NONE LIKE...

"THE SNAKE TERROR!"



Fred Meagher

THERE GOES THE FIRST WAGON TRAIN, STEVE! SOON THIS NEW STRIP WILL BE FILLED WITH SETTLERS!

AND IT WAS MADE POSSIBLE ONLY BY THE FRIENDLINESS OF THE SNAKE INDIANS, WHO LIVE ON THIS LAND...



OTHERS ALSO WATCH THE WESTWARD ROLLING WAGON TRAIN...

WHAT WE GONNA DO 'BOUT THET, CHEROKEE MIKE? WE BIN USIN' THIS TERRITORY AS A HIDE-OUT FER RUSTLED CATTLE. IF THEM SETTLERS MOVE IN...

I SAY THEY AIN'T MOVIN' IN!



UNFRIENDLY INJUNS KEPT 'EM OUT BEFORE AN' UNFRIENDLY INJUNS IS GONNA KEEP 'EM OUT AGAIN! LET'S GO... BACK TO OUR MOUNTAIN HIDEOUT!



THE MOUNTAIN LAIR OF CHEROKEE MIKE...

FROM NOW ON, MEN--WE'RE **SNAKE INJUNS**! AN' WE'RE SHORE GONNA BE **UNFRIENDLY**!

LOOKIT ME, GUYS--I'M A INJUN!
YAHOOO!



LET'S GO!

HI YAH!

HIYAH H H H!



NEXT MORNING...

THUNDER! THE WORST MASSACRE IN YEARS!

INJUNS!
SNAKE INJUNS, TOO!



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, SHERIFF! THE SNAKES HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY!

JEST THUH SAME, THESE ARE **SNAKE** ARROWS--AN' LOOKIT THET TOTEM SIGN!



THEY PULLED A SNEAK PUNCH ON US! PLAYED FRIENDLY AN' ALL THUH TIME THEY WUZ PLANNIN' A MASSACRE LIKE THIS!

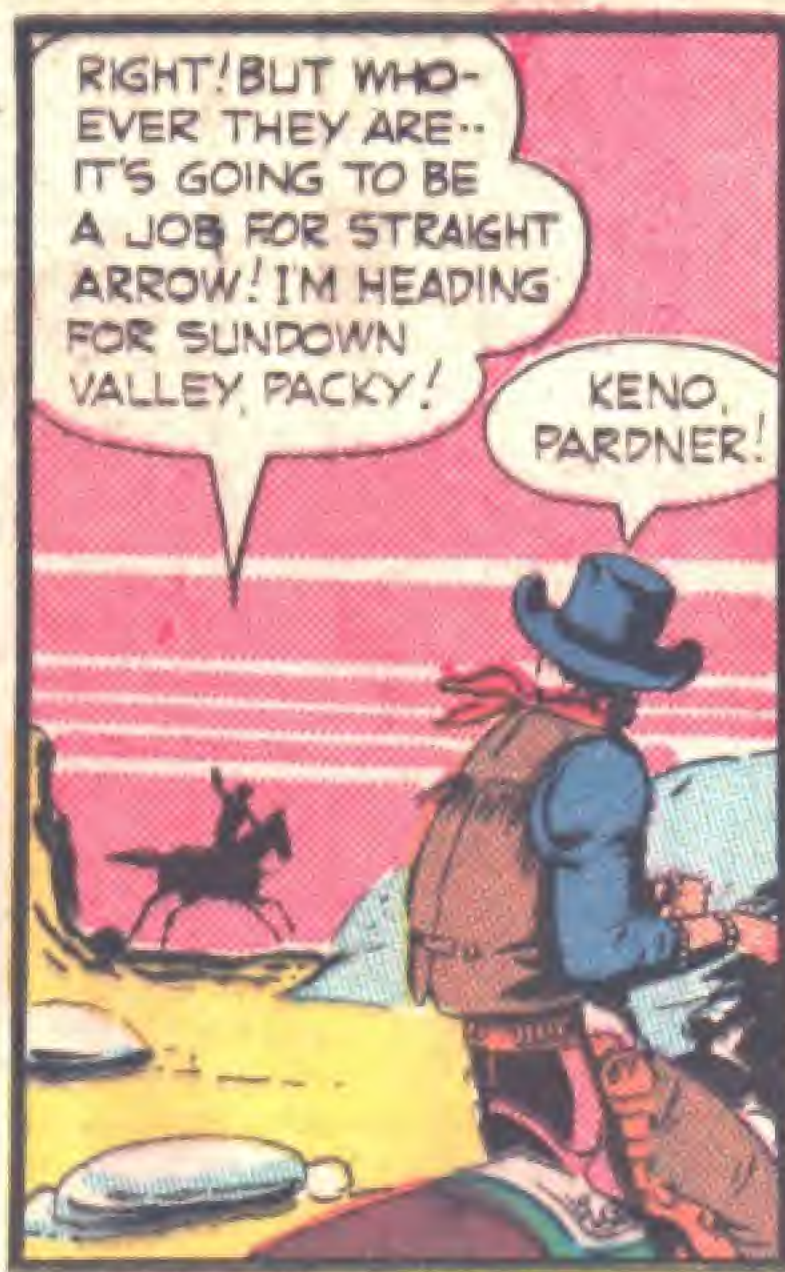
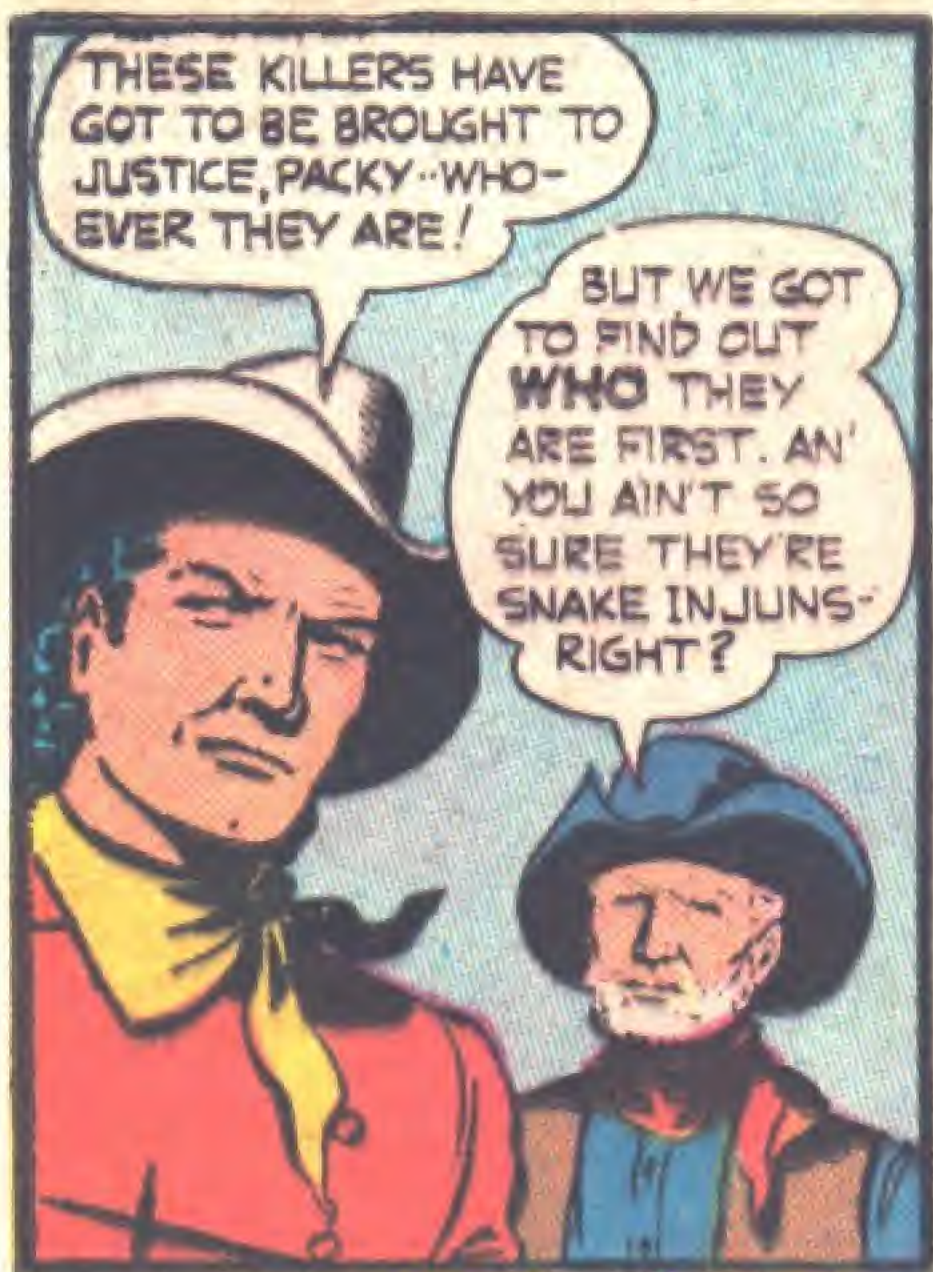
DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS YET, SHERIFF!



I'VE SEEN ALL I NEED TUH SEE, STEVE! THIS IS A MATTER FER THUH ARMY! I'M RIDIN' TUH GIT 'EM RIGHT NOW!

GOLLY! THET? MEANS **WAR**!













HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! WHO'S THIS COMIN' IN BEHIND US? IT'S STRAIGHT ARROW! HOLY SMOKE, IF HE'S ON TO OUR GAME, WE'RE GONERS!



THAR HE IS, TALKIN' TUH THUH CHIEF RIGHT NOW! SLUG THUH GEEZER AN' TOSS 'IM INTUH A TENT, MEN! WE'RE GOIN' TUH SNEAK UP AN' PLUG STRAIGHT ARROW!



WE GOTTA DO THIS QUIET--THAT OUGHT TUH DO IT! TOSS HIM IN HYAR, MEN! AN' NOW FER STRAIGHT ARROW!

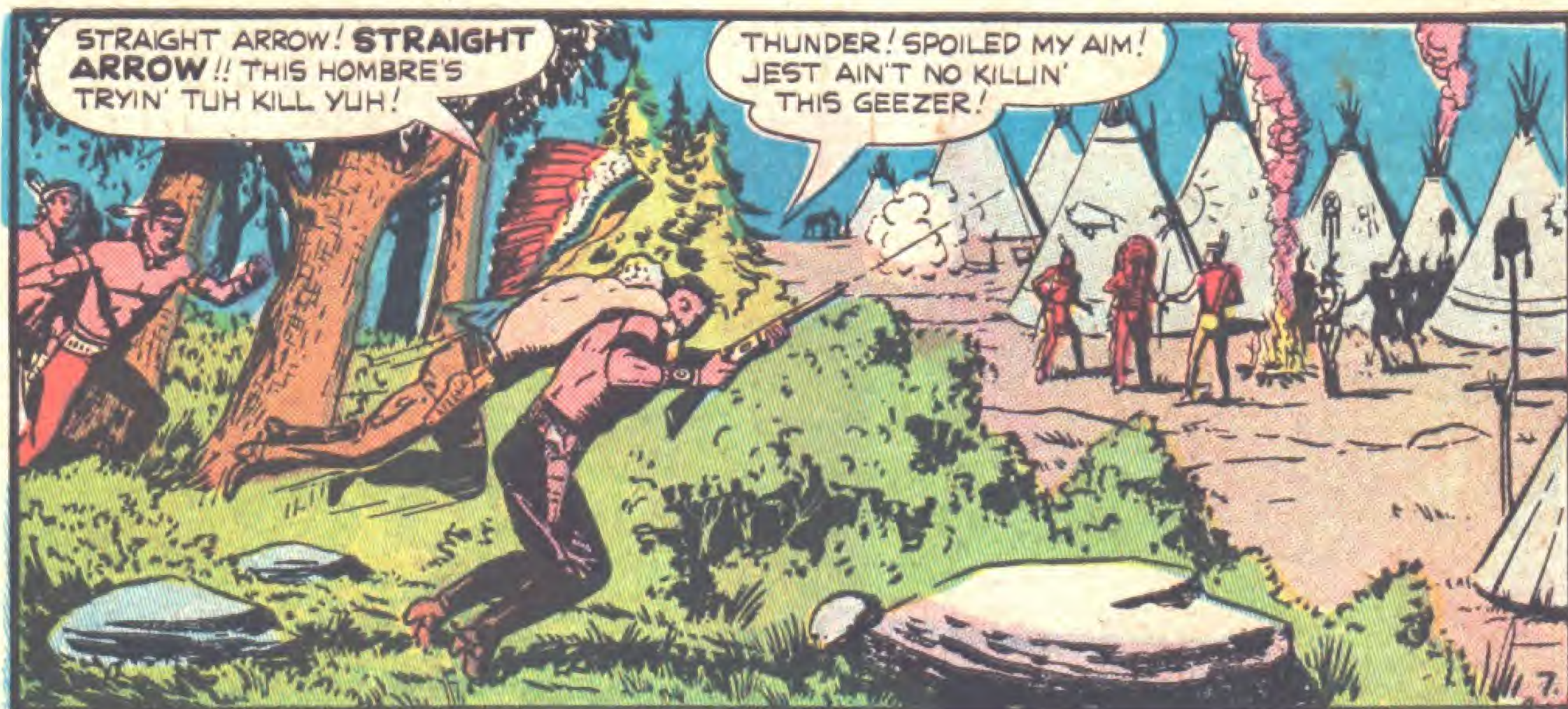


BUT, IN HIS HASTE, THE OWLHOOT GAVE PACKY ONLY A GLANCING BLOW...

OW, MY HEAD!--WHUT--WHAR AM I? SNAKES! RATTLEERS! HE'S GONNA STRIKE! HE'S GOT ME!



I'M BIT! I'M A GONER! THIS IS TUH END--JEST GOT A FEW MORE MINUTES TUH LIVE--JEST GOT A COUPLE MINUTES TUH SAVE STRAIGHT ARROW...



STRAIGHT ARROW! STRAIGHT ARROW!! THIS HOMBRE'S TRYIN' TUH KILL YUH!

THUNDER! SPOILED MY AIM! JEST AIN'T NO KILLIN' THIS GEEZER!



Here it is fellas! send for it **NOW!**

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